

and Example 10 (Fig. 8), a peak was not observed in the range where the number-average molecular weight $\langle M_n \rangle$ is 4500 or more.--

In the Claims:

Please replace the claim 16 with the following rewritten claim:

16. The method of preparing a deproteinized natural rubber latex according to claim 13, wherein the microorganisms which belong to the genus *Rhizopus* are microorganisms which belong to *Rhizopus oryzae*.